

URGENT WARNING

Beware of fraudulent individuals,
commonly called "notarios,"
who act like licensed
attorneys of immigration.

These individuals have
defrauded many people by
charging thousands of dollars
and either never file
the necessary paper work
or file it improperly.

Accredited Agencies and Resources for Assistance

ChildServ is a private organization affiliated with the Methodist Church that advocates for the well-being of children. Founded in 1894, their mission is to help children and their families improve their lives.

ChildServ Family Immigration and Citizenship Support program offers assistance to eligible immigrant families, in filling out the necessary paperwork required to successfully become legal residents, maintain legal status, or become US Citizens. The program also offers weekly citizenship classes to prepare individuals for a successful interview and test. This is the only immigration program in Lake County accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals. English and Spanish speaking staff are available Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Voice mail message service is also available.

Maria Elena Jonas, Supervisor
1103 Greenwood Avenue, Waukegan, IL 60087
Phone: (847) 263-2200
Fax: (847) 662-0663

Catholic Charities of Chicago provides the following immigration/naturalization services to US citizens and lawful permanent residents:

- Assists with family reunification applications, extensions of stay, replacement of permanent residence cards, work permits, naturalization certificates, and inquiries for status of cases at BCIS as well as at the USA consulates abroad.
- Files permanent residence applications on behalf of religious workers (priests, religious women, seminarians, brothers of religious communities, etc.), petitions for extensions of a visit, work permits and applications for U.S. citizenship.
- Completes all BCIS forms and refers clients to other service providers when necessary.

This service is accredited by the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals and is registered at the Chicago Department of Consumer Services.

Catholic Charities'
Immigration and Naturalization Services
Dalia Rocotello, Lorena Cabrera and Ginelda Guevara
126 North Desplaines
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Phone: (312) 427-7078



*"It is my pleasure to provide,
with the advise and assistance
of my Advisory Board,
this brochure, which will
provide information and
resources for immigrants to
Lake and Cook Counties"*

Immigration Information, Advice and Assistance



Mark Kirk (R-IL)

U.S. Congressman
10th District of Illinois
20 S. Martin Luther King Dr.
Waukegan, IL 60085
Phone: (847) 662-0101
Fax: (847) 662-7519
Web: www.house.gov/kirk
Email: rep.kirk@mail.house.gov

Immigration Changes

The old Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) office no longer exists. After the events of September 11, 2001, the INS office was dismantled and now those services are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Under this agency, there are three new offices which provide the services that were provided by INS. The new offices and their acronyms are:

- The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE),
- The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP), and
- The Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS).

The responsibility for providing immigration-related services and benefits such as naturalization and work authorization were transferred from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) in DHS.

In August 2003, BCIS established the Case Status Search engine via internet and phone. This means that now you may directly seek information regarding the status of your case via phone or internet. You can access the Case Status Search by phone at 1 (800) 375-5283; you can also use this number to report an address change. Or, you can access the Case Status Search on the Web at <https://egov.immigration.gov/graphics/cris/jsps/caseStat.jsp>

Inquiring about case status by telephone or internet

Who can I call if I have a question?

If you have a question about case status information provided via the Web site, please contact the Service Center where the application in question was filed. Other inquiries can be directed to the BCIS National Customer Service Center (NCSC) at 1 (800) 375-5283.

What type(s) of information can I search for on the Web site?

You may search for the status of an immigration benefits application submitted to a BCIS Service Center via the application receipt number assigned to you by the BCIS.

What is an application receipt number, why is it important, and where can I find it?

An application receipt number is mailed to a customer after they have submitted an application to a BCIS Service Center. This number consists of 13 letters and numbers and is called the "receipt number." For example:

LIN-00-000-00000

Unfortunately, you will not be able to access case status information without an application receipt number.

Is a receipt number required to perform case status searches via the Web site?

Yes, an application receipt number is required to perform case status searches via the site. There is no other way to locate case status information. This site does not maintain any personal information that may have been provided with your application, thus you will not be able to search via any other means.

What should I do if I have submitted an application, but have not received a receipt number yet?

You will have to wait for your receipt number to arrive in the mail from BCIS. If you have questions about your application receipt number, please call the NCSC at 1 (800) 375-5283 or 1 (800) 767-1833 (TTY).

At this time the NCSC provides specific information about the status of an *individual* application by phone IF you electronically filed, OR filed at a Service Center AND have a receipt/tracking number. The NCSC can answer many questions about case status for customers who:

- have a pending application or petition at service center for naturalization, or
- filed another kind of application at a local BCIS office.

<https://egov.immigration.gov/graphics/cris/jsps/caseStat.jsp>

Remember that you will need your receipt number.